

Message Text

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64

ACTION AID-20

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-19 INT-08

COME-00 PC-15 USIA-15 AGR-20 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 DODE-00 EB-11 DRC-01 /169 W

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R 040800Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1481

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

USMISSION ECBRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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AFDROUGHT

ROME FOR FODAG

OUAGADOUGOU FOR SPENCER

USEC FOR WENDT

PARIS FOR ZACHARY

LONDON FOR BAAS

EO 11652: NA

SUBJECT: GIRM REQUEST FOR USG AIRLIFT

REF: STATE 168617, NOUAKCHOTT 776, 757

SUMMARY: RAISED POINTS STATE REFTEL WITH MINHEALTH DURING
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LENGTHY SEPTEMBER 1 MEETING. MINISTER PROMISED LOOK INTO

POSSIBILITY OBTAINING AIRCRAFT FROM FAO, NOTED LIBYANS HAD PROMISED TWO C-130S, AND REITERATED HIS REQUEST FOR USG AIRLIFT HELP.

1. UNABLE OBTAIN APPOINTMENT WITH GIRM DROUGHT RELIEF COORDINATOR (MINHEALTH) UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1. MINISTER HAS BEEN TRAVELING EXTENSIVELY TO OVERSEE RELIEF OPS AND IS PREOCCUPIED WITH PLANNING HERE FOR OUAGADOUGOU DROUGHT MEETINGS. IN MAKING POINTS STATE REFTEL (WITH EXCEPTION OFFER PAY FUEL COSTS SPANISH AIRCRAFT), ALSO TOLD MINISTER WE ALMOST CERTAIN C-130 AIRCRAFT HE HAS REQUESTED COULD NOT LAND AT NEMA. MINISTER SAID HE AWARE GERMAN PILOTS FOUND NEMA STRIP UNSAFE FOR SMALLER C-160 TRANSAL, BUT SAID HE PLANNING USE C-160/C-130S FERRY GRAIN TO AOUN, AND FROM THERE TO NEMA BY TRUCK. (FYI EMBOFF CONFIRMS AOUN-NEMA ROAD IS OPEN AND THAT OVERLAND GRAIN SHIPMENTS THAT ROUTE HAVE RECOMMENCED.) MINISTER WENT ON TO NOTE THAT LIBYANS HAD PROMISED SEND TWO C-130S BUT HAD YET TO GIVE ETA. SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO POSSIBILITIES GETTING FAO-CONTROLLED AIRCRAFT TO MAURITANPA, AND REPEATED HIS REQUEST FOR USG AIRLIFT HELP.

2. THOUGH EMBOFF'S VISIT LAST WEEK TO NEMA AND OTHER SOUTHEASTERN MAURITANIA TOWNS (SEPTTEL) CONFIRMS NEEDS THERE ARE GREAT, AM NOT AT THIS TIME PREPARED RECOMMEND WE PROVIDE AIRLIFT ASSISTANCE. BOTH GERMANS AND SPANISH APPEAR WILLING CONTINUE THEIR AIRLIFT OPS BEYOND ORIGINAL TERMINATION DATES (THE FRG IS SENDING A SECOND C-160 THIS WEEK). AND, IF LIBYANS COME THROUGH WITH TWO C-130S AS PROMISED THERE IS REAL POSSIBILITY OF OVERLOADING CARGO HANDLING CAPACITY AT NOUAKCHOTT AIRPORT (NOT TO MENTION THAT AT PROVINCIAL AIRSTRIPS) AND OF CREATING JET FUEL SHORTAGE.

3. WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR CLOSELY FOOD AND AIRLIFT SITUATION OVER NEXT WEEK TO TEN DAYS AND MAKE FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS AS NECESSARY. IN MEANTIME, BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONCENTRATE OUR EFFORTS ON DELIVERING AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE OF OUR 18,000 TON GRAIN COMMITMENT BEFORE THE END OF SEPTEMBER, WHEN GIRM EMERGENCY STOCKS WILL AGAIN BE REACHING DANGEROUSLY LOW LEVELS. DECONTROL 6/31674.

SHURTLEFF

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